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S H O C H I K U

Kabuki play

"SENDAI HAGI"

By Nagawa Kamesuke

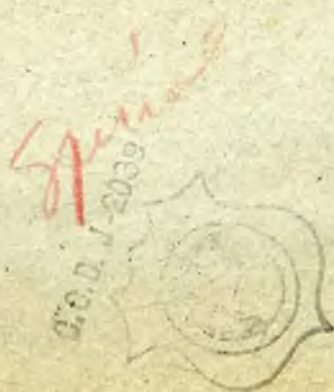
----- Scene of the inner room in
Ashikaga house -----

TO BE PRESENTED BY BIGYOKU TROUPE

FROM DEC. TO '47.

AT MINAMIZA (Kyoto)

X X X X X X



CAST:

Masaoka
Tsuruchiyo
Senmatsu
Sakae-gozen
Yashio
Matsushima
Okinoi
Shinobi Katoji
Waitress

SYNOPSIS:

Masaoka the wet-nurse of Tsuruchiyo-gimi the young lord of Ashikaga house, takes care of him from a plot against his life by Nikkai Danjo with his son's scapegoat.

The main stage is set up as an inner room in a palace of daimyo, with golden sliding screens, bamboo-screens all around. To the right is a small stage for Joruri-reciter. Curtain rises.

Joruri: "Seeing off Masaoka sinks In deep thought
of young lord's future.
For her own false charge is now cleared up,
But the cloud covered him is not cleared
up yet. She has no one to consult with,
But alone thinks over in gloomy heart
Her uneasy look gives something uneasy
To her own son Sennatsu and Prince Tsuruchiyo
They both stare her uneasily."

(While the joruri is recited the bamboo-
screen is raised up. A table, A set of
tea-thingo. A cage for sparrows.

Masaoka stands with a small-dinner
table in her hands. Tsuruchiyo- gimi
and Sennatsu sit in their places.

Tsuru: Well, wet-nurse, may I tell what I want to,
now?

Masa: Yes, you may. No one but we are here.
Indeed, you were very clever not to take the
dinner which Okinoi-dono presented to
you. I am very much pleased with you,
for you remembered kept my words.
You have done well!

"For her compliments, with childish hearts,"

Tsuru: I say, Nurse, as you used to say that a strong samurai must not speak the word "hungry" I don't want to say the word, but my stomach is empty for a time, you see.

Masa: Oh; You are right. I will ready the meal for you as usual. Listen to me.
The wicked got power in the palace now.
There is none to rely on for us.
Faithfull retainer, Tetsunosuke is kept at a distance by a slander of the wicked, and you are surrounded by those wicked.
So I order to throw away the dinner which they prepared for you, for I am afraid if the poison might be administered in it.
I know that you are hungry.
But you never say so, I have to haste to make it.
Now. ----

"Standing up to make the meal, Takes out a fine bag of rice.
Then dips hot water from the kettle,
And gives it to Benmatsu for the taste of poison.

After the taste she washes the rice with it
In tears with pure heart.
Then pours it into an iron pot to boil,
And makes fire with a fan in ~~hazak~~ heartfelt pain."
(During this Joruri recital,
Masaoka makes the meal)

Tsuru:) Oh/
Sen:) Oh! The meal is ready already.

"Seeing her son is pleased, too,
She feels more sorrow for them both,
Trying to keep back her tears,"

Masa: I am presenting now.

Sen: Mama, hurry up for him.

Masa: It must be boiled up a little more.
As you are clever, please sing the song
of sparrow as usual for him in waiting.
"Being reproved feels tears in his eyes,
Nearly crying in hiccuping sob,"

Sen: Oh the tea-plant in the back yard,

Tsuru: Three sparrows are perching,

Sen: And one sparrow sings

Masa: The bride who come last night, ho-ho-ho-ho.
"From the bamboo-leaves Comes down the mother
sparrow,
And gives the food to her child,
The child sparrow receives it with her bill
Seeing them,"

Tsuru: Oh! Look at them! The mother sparrow is giving food to her child. I want to eat rice meal, too, soon.

"Entering to his childish feeling
to envy the bird,
She keeps away her sympathy,
and tries to comfort him
Singing in tearfull voice,"

Masa: Sings. (My son, Senmatsu went---)
Oh, Senmatsu, what happened to you with such a looking? Don't cry. You are a little samurai, I say.

Sings: Went to a gold mine, when he was
seven or eight years old.

(Then the sparrow scatters away.

Masaoka sinks in deep thought,)

"And never be back For an year."

Tsuru: Nurse, isn't the meal ready yet?

Masa: Oh! Yes, I am presenting now.

"And is waiting in vain
For two years"

(Then Masaoka arrests a wicket Katoji and
hides him under the skirt of her long
over-dress.)

Sen: Mama, the meal isn't ready yet?

Masa: Oh! don't hasten me, you also are ill-behaved,
arn't you?

Sen: No, I don't want to eat, but I sympathize
him for his empty stomach.

Masa: Oh! he never hastens me, as he is strong.
It is you who coax me.

Sen: No, no, I never coax you.

Masa: Oh! you don't, you say?
Then sing that song merrily.
"Being urged,
In tearful tone,"

Sen: Cries, sorrowfully she cries,
"Singo in feeble voice,
Mother accompanies him,
Keeping back her tears, too,"

Masa: For what sorrow does she cry?
"The v ry song comes back
straight on her heart,
For the love to her own son
her heart is nearly broken.
But she stands for her young
lord strongly."

Masa: Oh, Senmatsu, there comes a lap-dog.
Call him!

"As he calls, it comes nearer
on the veranda,"

Masa: Oh! You came here just at the right time.
You are lucky. You may eat
this dinner prepared for your
master, as the reward for your good

deed to comfort him. Oh! eat!

"Saying she puts it on the paper.

The lap-dog eats it in rapture

Seeing it the young lord,"

Tsuru: Nurse! I wish. I were a lap dog.

"He envies the dog."

Masa: Oh! I can understand you.

"Among so many men in Japan

You were born fortunately

As the lord of fifty four states."

Masa: And is permitted to live luxuriously,
nothing not to be granted.

However, it comes to pass to bear such
a sad painful days for him unexpectedly.

As I can't present him plenty of food
every morning and evening,

"He envies the birds
in the cage for their food."

Masa: I can understand him well,
but what an ill-starred lord he is!

"To be inferior to a dog
and sparrow in service
How can be said faithful.
In deep sorrow for her
present situation,
She burst out into tears
at the rear of the screen,
In diffidence to her lord.
Though the lord is very young yet,
He is endowed with
dignity and grace as a lord,"

Tsuru: Well, nurse, why are you crying?
Don't cry, as I don't hasten you any more.
While Senmatsu is waiting, I, too,
wait. I wait untill you both eat.
Though I can eat, it's no good to me, if
you die in hunger. Senmatsu, you also can't die.
I will wait forever untill -----

Nasa: Oh! You said that. I thank you.
But it is a charm to boil rice well.
Only a charm my weeping was. I have nothing
to weep ho-ho-ho-ho. It's funny ----

xxxxx

xxx By the charm the rice is boiled
already. I will make a rice-ball
for you as usual.

"She takes a handful rice, And makes a ball.
He is waiting impatiently for it,
And holds out his little hand.

(Masaoka puts rice-balls on the candy-dish
and presents to him.)

Masa:

Well, wait a moment. We must examin over
and over for your patience for long time.
Begin with it!

(She gives an order to Senmatsu. Senmatsu
eats one of them. Masaoka looking his face,
No danger. Now, you may have in peace.

"Hearing her words, He is pleased,
And takes a handful ball in great rapture,
In spite of his rich domain.

Sympathizing him in such situation,
And thinking of her own,
She weeps in her heart Then,"

(An waitress comes out from the stage passage)

Sait:

I say, Sakae-gozen-sama will be here now.

(Goes back)

Masa: I wonder why Mrs. Yamana will be here at this time. I say, Senmatsu, retire to the next room. Don't forget what I've talked to you.

Sen: O.K.

Masa: Then, hurry up!

"drives him away"

(Senmatsu retires to the inner room.)

Masaoka rings for the waitress.

Puts on the long over dress.

(Then at inner room,)

Yashis: (voice) Let us greet Sakae-gozen, as she is coming in.

(Yashio, Okinoi, Matsushima come out together)

"Letting them open the sliding-screens, Mrs. Yamana, Sakae-gozen."

(Into an air of confusion,

Sakae-gozen comes out from stage-passage in beautiful long over-dress.

A waitress with a cake-box in her hands and two waiters with a hand-lantern

in each of their hands follow her)

Masa: As I heard that Sakae-gozen-sama will be here, Nurse Masaoka, as an attendant for our lord Tsurukiyo-maru who is now ill,

Yashio: A regent Danjo's sister, Yashis,

Oki: Tamura Ukyo's wife, Okinoi,

Matsu: Shiba Sakyo's wife Matsushima,

All: Are meeting you here.

Sakae: Thank you for your trouble to meet
me here in spite of illness.

Masa: First of all.

All: Come here.

Sakae: Excuse me.

(Sits to the right)

Masa: Now, Sakae-gozen-sama, I ask you.
If we could see why are you here,

Yashis: We all,

They all: Are glad.

Sakae: Oh! The reason, why I am here now,
is only to know the condition of
Tsuruchiyo-dono instead of my husband.
As they say that Tsuruchiyo-dono
avoid the male-visitors, and has a poor
appetite, my husband send me to
see him in bed and ask me to present this
cakes from the regency. I am glad as a
messenger if he appreciates this Yashio!
Present this to him.

"As she holds out the cake-box,
Yashio receives it and, "

Yashio: Oh, I see. Here is a kind present from the regency, it's better to appreciate it to you.

"Opening the box,"

(Open the box)

Wonderful! How fine they are! What a delicious-looking they have! ~~Take~~ Take out whatever you like.

"As he is about to take,"

Masa: Ah! just a minute.

(As Tsuruchiyo is about to take, Masaoka prevents him)

Sakae: Well, Masaoka!

Why do you stop him?

Masa: Oh! That is.

Sakae: I see, now. Are you afraid of this cake from the regency?

Masa: No, I never.

Sakae: If you are not. Why don't you present it by yourself? It must be inquired more precisely.

Oki: Just a minute. Why is she afraid of the present from the regency?

I think she stops him as he was forbidden by the doctor.

Matsu: She is right. It's her duty as a nurse to keep him from any harm.

Therefore she has done her duty only.

Aren't you Masaoka-dono?

Masa: Yes, it's quite right.

Sakae: Then you said, you are not afraid of this cake?

Masa: Why am I afraid ---?

Sakae: Then, you have to present this to him
by yourself.

Masa: What do you say?

Sakae: Masaoka, do you present?

Masa: Oh! I ---

Both: Here, here.

Sakae: Masaoka, how about this?

"As they struggle in heart,

Senmatsu comes out

from the next room,"

Sen: Mama, give a piece of cake to me.

"With one bite, he falls in pain."

"When all at once,

Yashio takes him by his neck,

And pushes her dagger

in his right side."

(Senmatsu eats a cake and pains

terribly Yashio, in great surprise,

takes him and stabs him with her dagger.

Masaoka shields Tsuruchiyo under

her long over-dress. All waitress

protected him, too. Okinoi standing

straight,"

Okī: Oh! Not to ask the truth, Yashio-dono
why do you stab Senmatsu?

Matsu: Answer me.

"As they pressed,"

Yashi: Don't be excited. You are in the face
of Sakae-sama. Be quiet and listen to me.
He behaved badly with this present from
the regency. So I punished him.
It's for the lord, as I am faithful ---
Ha ha ha. Look at him, he hasn't die yet.
He moves like this. Oh, you are painful.
It's quite right. Even me, as a woman,
feel tears what I have done, you must feel
much more sorrow, I guess.

Masa: Don't mention it. As he behaved badly for his
lord, and brought disgrace on me, he is stabbed
by you for the lord.

Yashi: Then are you not sorry to see him in this
state. Oh! are you?

Seeing this? Yet are you not sad?

"By torture to death Senmatsu groan
with pain. His moaning sound pierce
through his mother's heart.

But the mother bears patiently her sorrow bearing
no tears.

She shields her lords only.
Faithful Masaoka is stout-hearted,
and is talked forever,
as a pattern of womanhood.
Sakae watches her manner
and smiles satisfactly.

Sakae: Oh! well done, Yashio. This precious cake from
the regency is disturbed by a child and
our secret plan ----

No, precious cake is disturbed, for
the failure, Yashio punished him, Well done!

Yashio: I thank you for your compliment to this trifle.

Sakae: Well, now I want to talk with Masaoka alone.
Please leave us alone.

Yashio: You mean to leave you both alone.

Sakae: Yes, please withdraw..

Three: All right.

"They have nothing to say,
Okinoi supposes her deep intention.

With Yashio, she leaves there.

Sakae-gozen looking around,"

(Yashio, Okinoi, Matsushima retires.)

Sakae: Draw near, Masaoka!

Masa: Yes.

Sakae: You are statisfied, for your wish is granted,
I think.

Masa: What do you say?

Sakae: Although I've heard lately that you changed
your son with lord at their babyhood,
I have a doubt on the rumour. Therefore I watched
you precisely for a time. Now I saw
the fact with my eyes, for you showed no feeling to ~~the~~
this child's pain.

Even though you are stout-hearted, you can't
bear to see your own child's pain in such
a way. Since I saw the fact, I will
tell you our secret. Look at this.
(Takes out a list of the plotters.
Looking at it,)

Masa: Oh! This is ---- Ahead of Onitsura ----

Sakae: The list of the plotters.

I've talked with Yashio about this.

You may ask and act with her hereafter.

Masa: Then, do you mean --- this list ---
to me?

Sakae: Yes, + leave it to you.

Masa: And what will you do?

Sakae: I will be back now and tell about this
case just happened.
I will start right away.

Masa: Sakae-gozen-sama is starting!

(calls)

Waitress (✓ two): Yes! We see.

Masa: Well, then, Sakae-sama.

Sakae: Masaoaka, take care of yourself stealthily.

"Self-satisfied Sakae starts
to her home serenely."

(Sakae-gozen retires with her waitress)

"Being left alone, Masaoaka,

In deference to the inner room,

Stares at her dead son,

And burst out into tears at last."

(After a little thought Masaoaka looking him,)

Masa: Well, Senmatsu. Well done.

You died just at the right time,

my baby well done. As you gave up your

life for your lord, Sakae-gozen ✓

in spite of her wickedness believed that you

are the lord himself, and tell me the plot.

Both God and Buddha pity us for our faith,

and bless our lord. You kept my words

and tried the poison as I told you at the

very time of pinch. You give them a chance to

union in these states by your life.

Truly your life,

"Is the foundation of the states,

However I am sorry for you."

For your lord, you made up your mind,
to die. But I unexpected you to die by such
a woman's hand of Danjo's sister.

"Being tortured to death before my eyes.

No one can understand the heart of mine,"

Now, I recall the song which he was used to sing.

"At 7 or 8 years old, he has gone to a mine,

And never be back for a year."

For two years, waited in vain.

But that Genmatsu in the song might come
back after years.

But my son Genmatsu, you would never be back
forever to me.

"For one thousand years, or ten thousand years

Would I wait, I could have no news."

All the parents in the world have the same
heart. They take care of their son not
to take the poison,

What kind of mothers can ask to their
child to try the poison?

"Such a cruel mother."

Can't live.

"Was it his happiness

That he came of a Samurai family?

Masa: Or was it unlucky ----?
"Pitiful it is! It is believed The death means ~~the~~
the faith,
From what day they were accustomed to
In spite of her patient heart,
She comes back herself,
And burst out into tears
With her son's dead body in her hands,
It's quite right to ~~kill~~ her.

Yashio: You, Masako!
(Yashio, with her dagger tries to stab at
Masaoka.)

Masa: What do you want to do? With me?

Yashio: I understand you in whole.
You should die, too.

Masa: What a cheeky thing you said!
(Masaoka stabs at Yashio. Yashio avoids,
but receives a cut. Masaoka drops the list.
With mysterious music a big rat runs
out, and soon disappears with the list.
Okinoi, Matsushima and waitress come out of
inner room.)

Oki: Alas! the list for inquire ----
Matsu: The rat bite and ---
All: Look there! Look!
Oki: You are female but a member of plotter!
Masa: My baby's foe!
Matsu: And Lord's enemy!
Masa: God's judgement is,
(forwards a step)
(First wooden clapper.)
Masa: Now, on you.
(5 coops Yashio. Yashio suffers in pain.
They all draw down the bamboo-screens properly.)